

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A wheelchair docking system for releasably securing a wheelchair to the floor of a vehicular conveyance, comprising: a support frame ~~means~~ adapted for rigid attachment to said wheelchair; a docking shoe ~~means~~, adapted for rigid attachment to either one of said support frame and said floor; an anchor ~~means~~, adapted for rigid attachment to the other of said support frame and said floor; and an arm ~~means~~ adapted, when in an operative position, for rigid mounting in a vertical plane on said anchor means and adapted for sliding and locking engagement in said docking shoe means.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said docking shoe ~~means~~ includes a spring loaded wedge ~~means~~ adapted to releasably lock said arm ~~means~~ in said docking shoe means.

Claim 3 (original): A wheelchair docking system ~~means~~ as claimed in claim 2 including a pivotally mounted lever ~~means~~, operatively connected to said spring loaded wedge ~~means~~, and adapted to move said wedge ~~means~~ from a locked position to an unlocked position so as to release said arm ~~means~~.

Claim 4 (original): A wheelchair docking system ~~means~~ as claimed in claim 3 wherein said lever means is manually operated.

Claim 5 (original): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 3 including powered actuator ~~means~~ to operate said lever means.

Claim 6 (original): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 5 wherein said powered actuator ~~means~~ comprises an electrically operated solenoid switch.

Claim 7 (original): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said docking shoe ~~means~~ is mounted on said floor of said vehicle and said anchor ~~means~~ is mounted on said support frame ~~means~~ on said wheelchair.

Claim 8 (cancelled):

Claim 9 (cancelled):

Claim 10 (cancelled):

Claim 11 (original): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said docking shoe ~~means~~ includes locking ~~means~~ adapted to be manually releasable.

Claim 12 (original): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said docking shoe ~~means~~ includes a locking device ~~means~~ adapted to be electrically releasable.

Claim 13 (New): A wheelchair docking system for releasably securing a wheelchair to a vehicular conveyance, comprising: a support frame adapted for rigid attachment to said wheelchair; a docking shoe, adapted for rigid attachment to either one of said support frame and said vehicular conveyance; an anchor adapted for rigid attachment to the other of said support frame and said vehicular conveyance; and an arm adapted, when in an operative position, for rigid mounting in a vertical plane on said anchor and adapted for sliding and locking engagement in a generally horizontally direction in said docking shoe, engagement between the anchor and the shoe being substantially the only securement of the wheelchair to the vehicular conveyance.

Claim 14 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said docking shoe includes spring loaded wedge adapted to releasably lock said arm in said docking shoe.

Claim 15 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 14 including a pivotally mounted lever, operatively connected to said spring loaded wedge, and adapted to move said wedge from a locked position to an unlocked position so as to release said arm.

Claim 16 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 15 wherein said lever is manually operated.

Claim 17 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 15 including powered actuator to operate said lever.

Claim 18 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said powered actuator comprises an electrically operated solenoid switch.

Claim 19 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said docking shoe is mounted on said floor of said vehicle and said anchor is mounted on said support frame on said wheelchair.

Claim 20 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said docking shoe is mounted on said support frame on said wheelchair and said anchor is mounted on said floor.

Claim 21 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said anchor comprises a second docking shoe and said arm is adapted, at each longitudinal end thereof, for releasable locking engagement with a respective one of said docking shoe and said second docking shoe.

Claim 22 (New): A system as defined in claim 13, wherein the docking shoe further comprises a circular pin and a circular flange mounted on the circular pin.

Claim 23 (New): A system as defined in claim 22, wherein the arm includes a button having a top surface and a lower flange to slidably engage a lower surface of the circular flange on the docking shoe.

Claim 24 (New): A method for securing a wheelchair to a vehicular conveyance, comprising: rigidly attaching a support frame to said wheelchair; rigidly attaching a docking shoe, to either one of said support frame and said vehicular conveyance; rigidly attaching anchor to the other of said support frame and said vehicular conveyance; rigidly mounting arm on said anchor so that, when in an operative position, said arm lies in a substantially vertical plane; and moving said wheelchair so as to vertically align said docking shoe and said anchor, so that said arm moves into sliding and locking engagement in said docking shoe.

Claim 25 (original): A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said docking shoe includes a locking device adapted to be manually releasable.

Claim 26 (original): A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said docking shoe includes a locking device adapted to be electrically releasable.

Claim 27 (new): A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said docking shoe is attached on a floor relative to said vehicular conveyance.

Claim 28 (New): A wheelchair docking system for releasably securing a wheelchair to a vehicular conveyance, comprising a first docking shoe adapted for rigid attachment to said wheelchair; a second docking shoe for rigid attachment to the vehicular conveyance, an arm adapted at each longitudinal end thereof for sliding and locking engagement in said first and second docking shoes and, in an operative position, for rigid mounting in a vertical plane to the first and second docking shoes.

Claim 29 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one of the first and second docking shoes includes spring loaded wedge adapted to releasably lock said arm in a docking shoe.

Claim 30 (New): A wheelchair docking as claimed in claim 29, wherein at least one of the first and second docking shoes includes pivotally mounted lever, operatively connected to said spring loaded wedge, and adapted to move said wedge from a locked position to an unlocked position so as to release said arm.

Claim 31 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 30 wherein said lever is manually operated.

Claim 32 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 31 including powered actuator to operate said lever.

Claim 33 (New): A wheelchair docking system as claimed in claim 32 wherein said powered actuator comprises an electrically operated solenoid switch.